

**CLAIMS**

1. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment, said envelope

having a front side and a back side, and

5 at least one zone of weakness on either one or both sides along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment.

2. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment, and

at least one vertical zone of weakness extending substantially along the

10 entire vertical length of the envelope along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment.

3. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side, and

at least one vertical zone of weakness on either the front side or back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment.

4. A garment protector comprising:

20 an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side, and

at least one vertical zone of weakness on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment.

5. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side, and

at least one diagonal zone of weakness on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment.

10. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side, and

15. at least one vertical zone of weakness, extending substantially along the entire vertical length of said envelope, on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment, wherein said at least one zone of weakness is a perforated line.

20. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side, and

at least one vertical zone of weakness, extending substantially along the entire vertical length of said envelope, on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment, wherein said at least one zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing 5 than adjacent material from which said envelope is made.

8. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from polythene.

9. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from polyethylene.

10. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from paper.

11. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the zone of weakness is a perforated line.

12. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than the adjacent material from which the garment protector is made.

13. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the garment protector is transparent.

20 14. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the garment protector is translucent.

15. The garment protector of claim 1, wherein the garment protector is opaque.

16. The garment protector of claim 1, comprising a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seals the envelope and permits the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment.

17. The garment protector of claim 1, comprising at least one stop on the 5 vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

18. The garment protector of claim 2, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from polythene.

19. The garment protector of claim 2, wherein the zone of weakness is a perforated line.

20. The garment protector of claim 2, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than the adjacent material from which the garment protector is made.

21. The garment protector of claim 2, wherein the garment protector is transparent.

22. The garment protector of claim 2, comprising a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seals the envelope and permits the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment.

23. The garment protector of claim 2, comprising at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

24. The garment protector of claim 3, wherein the garment protector is 20 fabricated from polythene.

25. The garment protector of claim 3, wherein the zone of weakness is a perforated line.

26. The garment protector of claim 3, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than the adjacent material form which the garment protector is made.

27. The garment protector of claim 3, wherein the garment protector is  
5 transparent.

28. The garment protector of claim 3, comprising a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seals the envelope and permits the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment.

29. The garment protector of claim 3, comprising at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

30. The garment protector of claim 4, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from polythene.

31. The garment protector of claim 4, wherein the zone of weakness is a perforated line.

32. The garment protector of claim 4, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than the adjacent material form which the garment protector is made.

33. The garment protector of claim 4, wherein the garment protector is transparent.

20 34. The garment protector of claim 4, comprising a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seals the envelope and permits the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment.

35. The garment protector of claim 4, comprising at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

36. The garment protector of claim 5, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from polythene.

5 37. The garment protector of claim 5, wherein the zone of weakness is a perforated line.

38. The garment protector of claim 5, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than the adjacent material form which the garment protector is made.

10 39. The garment protector of claim 5, wherein the garment protector is transparent.

40. The garment protector of claim 5, comprising a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seals the envelope and permits the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment.

15 41. The garment protector of claim 5, comprising at least one stop on the diagonal zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

42. The garment protector of claim 6, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from polythene.

20 43. The garment protector of claim 6, wherein the zone of weakness comprises a strip of material which is less resistant to tearing than the adjacent material form which the garment protector is made.

44. The garment protector of claim 6, wherein the garment protector is transparent.

45. The garment protector of claim 6, comprising a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seals the envelope and permits the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment.

46. The garment protector of claim 6, comprising at least one stop on the 5 vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

47. The garment protector of claim 7, wherein the garment protector is fabricated from polythene.

48. The garment protector of claim 7, wherein the zone of weakness is a perforated line.

49. The garment protector of claim 7, wherein the garment protector is transparent.

50. The garment protector of claim 7, comprising a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of the envelope which substantially seals the envelope and permits the envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment.

51. The garment protector of claim 7, comprising at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

52. A garment protector comprising:  
an elongated envelope to be disposed about a garment said envelope having a front side and a back side,  
20 at least one vertical zone of weakness, extending substantially along the entire vertical length of said envelope, on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the garment; and

at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

53. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope composed of polythene to be disposed about a

5 garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side,

a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of said envelope which substantially seals said envelope and permits said envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment,

10 at least one vertical zone of weakness on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate tearing the garment protector entirely away from the garment, wherein the at least one vertical zone of weakness is a perforated line, and

15 at least one stop on the vertical zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

54. A garment protector comprising:

an elongated envelope composed of polythene to be disposed about a

garment suspended upon a hanger, the upper end of said envelope having an opening at the apex for a suspension element of said hanger, wherein said envelope has a front side and a back side,

20 a pair of inclined seams at the upper part of said envelope which substantially seals said envelope and permits said envelope to conform loosely to a shape of the enclosed garment,

at least one diagonal zone of weakness on both the front side and back side along which said envelope may be parted to facilitate tearing the garment protector entirely away from the garment, wherein the at least one diagonal zone of weakness is a perforated line, and

5 at least one stop on the diagonal zone of weakness which protects the zone of weakness from inadvertently opening.

55. A method of fabricating the garment protector of claim 1, comprising: generating at least one zone of weakness extending along a length of the garment protector.

10 56. The method of claim 55, wherein the at least one zone of weakness is generated utilizing a perforating wheel.

57. The method of claim 55, wherein the at least one zone of weakness is generated utilizing a laser.

15 58. The method of claim 56, wherein the at least one zone of weakness is generated by passing said wheel along the length of the envelope, as a film which the elongated envelope is comprised of is passed along an assembly belt.

20 59. A method of fabricating the garment protector of claim 53, comprising: generating at least one vertical zone of weakness extending along a vertical length of the garment protector.

60. The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one vertical zone of weakness is generated utilizing a perforating wheel.

61. The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one vertical zone of weakness is generated utilizing a laser.

62. The method of claim 60, wherein the at least one vertical zone of weakness is generated by passing said wheel along the vertical length of the envelope, as a film which the elongated envelope is comprised of is passed along an assembly belt.

5 63. A method of fabricating the garment protector of claim 54, comprising:  
generating at least one diagonal zone of weakness extending along a length of the garment protector.

64. The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one diagonal zone of weakness is generated utilizing a perforating wheel.

10 65. The method of claim 63, wherein the at least one diagonal zone of weakness is generated utilizing a laser.

66. The method of claim 64, wherein the at least one diagonal zone of weakness is generated by passing said wheel along the diagonal length of the envelope, as a film which the elongated envelope is comprised of is passed along an assembly belt.

15 67. A garment protector comprising:  
a sealed envelope to enclose a folded garment or textile, said envelope having a front side and a back side, and  
at least one zone of weakness on either one or both sides along which said sealed envelope may be parted to facilitate separating the garment protector and the enclosed garment or textile.